conversion work. However, after conversion of the route, capacity is augmented and consequently earnings are expected to increase.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, delays may occur due to several reasons, many of which may be beyond the Railways' control.

Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority

3146. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority is proposed to be set up for following correct skewed pricing policy and adopt organisational changes for streamlining the passenger and cargo services;

(b) if so, by when the above proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indigenous device to detect track fractures

3147. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Indian Express dated the 23rd February, 2001 to the effect that five engineers have successfully developed an indigenous device to help Railways to detect fractures in tracks, if so, Government's information in the matter;

(b) what is Government's reaction in the matter;

(c) what are the main features of the said development;

(d) whether the Railways would adopt this indigenous device;

(e) if so, when and how Government would adopt the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?